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| APPLICATION NO.   | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/808,997  | 03/25/2004  | Katherine Mecsis     | 200002.00003        | 7756             |
| 21324   | 7590        | 09/29/2005           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| HAHN LOESER & PARKS, LLP<br>One GOJO Plaza<br>Suite 300<br>AKRON, OH 44311-1076 |             |                      | HALE, GLORIA M      |                  |
|   |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
|   |             |                      | 3765                |                  |

DATE MAILED: 09/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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|                              |                                      |   |  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b><br>10/808,997 | <b>Applicant(s)</b><br>MECSICS, KATHERINE |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b><br>Gloria Hale       | <b>Art Unit</b><br>3765                   |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.  
     4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
     a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6-25-04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.  |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 2-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22-24, 26 and 27 applicant claims multiple ratios by having claimed a first ratio in claims 2, 9 and 22 and then different ratios in the dependent claims 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13, 14, 24, 26 and 27. The second ratio renders the claim indefinite since it is not clear as to what ratio is being claimed. The generic terminology describing the ratio should be claimed in the independent claim with one measurement described as being larger than the other. The dependent claims should then claim the different ratios. Otherwise each ratio should be claimed in independent claims. In claims 1, 7, 8 and 15 the reference to "the distal end" is unclear. It is not clear as to what "distal" refers. It should be clarified to mean the bottom distal end of the front or rear panels to be worn adjacent the wearer's crotch. As presently claimed any end can be considered to be "distal". In claims 7 and 21 the term "a proximal portion of the crevice" is unclear. It is not clear as to what the "crevice" is "proximal" to. Is it the wearer's waist that it is "proximal" to? In claims 8, 15 and 22 it is not clear as to what the "distal portion of the crevice" is.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Estruch (US 4,481,683).

Estruch discloses an undergarment as seen in figure 1 with the torso encircling band, leg openings, front and rear panels as claimed. Estruch also discloses the transverse right and left side back panel with the length as claimed in addition to the longitudinal length of the top edge to the distal end of the back panel and the ratios of the relationship between those parts as claimed as being of at least 1.6:1 to 2.8 to 1. The intended use of the garment to show the wearer's buttocks crevice is intended use and depends on the size of the wearer and how the garment is placed on the wearer as desired. The crotch distal end of the back portion has a transverse width of at least 1.5 inches as claimed as seen in figure 1. The wearing of the garment as claimed is inherent with the garment and the wearing of the garment to expose the buttocks is intended use. The Estruch garment inherently performs the method steps as broadly claimed. Such a use is well known and is called "butt cleavage" or "plumber's crack". (See the Epinions.com article for a glossary of well known underwear terminology.)


***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The other cited articles also discuss the well known concept of "butt cleavage" and "plumber's crack" in addition to "low rider" garments.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gloria Hale whose telephone number is 571-272-4984. The examiner can normally be reached on Tues.-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Calvert can be reached on 571-272-4983. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Gloria Hale  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3765

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